



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/544,507	04/06/2000	Giampiero M. Sierra	MSI-486US	9078
22801	7590	12/23/2003	EXAMINER	
LEE & HAYES PLLC 421 W RIVERSIDE AVENUE SUITE 500 SPOKANE, WA 99201			NGUYEN, NHON D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2174	
DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003				12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/544,507

Applicant(s)

SIERRA ET AL.

Examiner

Nhon (Gary) D Nguyen

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment B, filed 08/22/2003.
2. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are independent claims. In the Amendment B, claims 4, 12, and 20 are cancelled; claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 are amended. This action is made non-final.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki", US 5,986,568) in view of Clark et al ("Clark", US 5,995,101).

As per independent claim 1, Suzuki teaches a method for use in a graphical user interface configured to support a login operation, the method comprising:

displaying at least one user identifier prompt within a graphical user interface, the at least one user identifier prompt including at least one selectable user area operatively associated with a previously configured user capable of completing a login operation by inputting user password input (col. 16, lines 58-60);

upon receiving user input selecting the at least one selectable user area, displaying at least one user input field within the graphical user interface, wherein the at least one user input field is

Art Unit: 2174

automatically configured to operatively receive user password input associated with the login operation (col. 16, line 66 – col. 17, line 5);

Suzuki does not disclose password reminder information; however, the Examiner takes Official Notice that password reminder information is well known in the computer art. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to modify Suzuki's system to include password reminder information feature since it would allow users to recall their password information in case they forget it.

Modified Suzuki teaches determining when conditions allow for the reception of the user password input (col. 16, line 66 – col. 17, line 5); however, modified Suzuki does not disclose “while conditions allow for the reception of the user password input and it is determined that there has been a failure to operatively receive the user password input for the login operation, then automatically displaying reminder information associated with the user input field through a non-modal mechanism within the graphical user interface”. Clark discloses a tool tip feature initiated after a predetermined amount of time, or trigger interval, of user inactivity (col. 2, lines 34-40). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to use the teaching from Clark of automatically displaying a tool tip feature if it is determined that there has been a failure to operatively receive the user input in modified Suzuki' system since it would further make it easier and more convenient for users to remember their password information without having them doing it manually.

As per independent claims 9 and 17, they are similar in scope to claim 1; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

Art Unit: 2174

5. Claims 5, 13 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Clark, as applied to claims 1, 9 and 17 respectively, and further in view of Cohen et al ("Cohen", US 5,740,035).

As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, modified Suzuki does not disclose the reminder information includes user provided password reminder information. Cohen discloses that at col. 13, lines 48-54 (fig. 5B). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to use the teaching from Cohen of the reminder information includes user provided password reminder information in modified Suzuki's system since it would help users easier to recall their password upon their owned reminder information.

As per 13 and 21, which are dependent on claims 9 and 17 respectively, they are similar in scope to claim 5; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Inquiries***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhon (Gary) D Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-

Art Unit: 2174

8318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 5:30 PM with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kistine L Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Nhon (Gary) Nguyen  
December 12, 2003

*Kristine Kincaid*  
KRISTINE KINCAID  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100